



**Department of
Education**

Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

February 8, 2012

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am writing to provide you an update regarding the FBI investigation of Taleek Brooks, a former paraprofessional at our school.

As Principal Karen Hambright-Glove stated in her letter yesterday, Mr. Brooks was arrested on January 13, 2012 on charges of shipping and transporting child pornography. Yesterday, we learned that the FBI discovered new evidence that indicates Mr. Brooks may have not only possessed child pornography, but is alleged to have produced child pornography himself, and he was immediately arrested upon discovery of this evidence. There were also unconfirmed reports in the news media that these incidents may have occurred on school grounds.

As soon as I learned of this information, I contacted your Principal and then visited the school to speak with the Principal, teachers, parent coordinator and PTA President.

I was also at the school this morning and spoke with the FBI when the agents arrived to continue their investigation, which included interviewing administrative staff. To ensure the integrity of this criminal investigation, staff has been directed by the FBI not to discuss the nature of those conversations. We know that as parents, there are many unanswered questions you may have; but in order to bring justice, it is important that we let law enforcement do their jobs and complete their investigation.

I want to assure you that the FBI has informed us that, consistent with their policy, they will not be interviewing any children without first reaching out to parents directly. The FBI has also informed us that if they have reason to suspect that one of your children may have been victimized by this individual, they will reach out to you directly.

I also want to remind you that the FBI has established a confidential hotline that you may call if you have any information pertaining to this situation, or any questions or concerns that your child may have been a victim. That number is: 212-384-2700.

We will also continue to have a crisis team at the school to support students, families and staff during this difficult time.

We take this matter very seriously, and I want you to know that your children and the school community will have the Department's full support, and we will keep you informed to the best of our ability as we learn more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis M. Walcott".

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor